

NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

December 17, 2009

"The Bistro", Senior Center, 67 Conz Street

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present: Ned Huntley
Jim Dostal
Chris Mason

1. Call to Order

Jim Dostal called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with Jim as facilitator and Chris Mason as scribe.

2. Approval of Minutes

No minutes were approved due to lack of a quorum

3. New Business

Jim Dostal announced that this would be his last NESC meeting as he was retiring from the City Council at the end of the month. He feels that publicity of the City and NESC's accomplishments should remain a priority and he noted that the commission will need to select someone new to take the lead on this task. He feels that work on this task should include City staff. He also recommended that NESC supply quarterly reports to City Council.

It was recommended that the City include a link from the Sustainable Northampton Plan web site to the NESC web site.

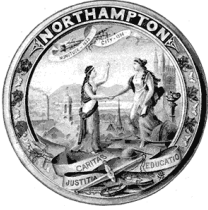
Chris Mason described efforts by John Kelly to ask our state senator and representative to introduce legislation enabling PACE financing.

*Respectfully submitted,
Chris Mason
Energy and Sustainability Officer
12/18/09*

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • John Kelly • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Catherine Ratte • Scott Silver

Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason

Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

November 19, 2009

Meeting Room in DPW Administration Building

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present: Ned Huntley
John Kelly
Scott Silver
Chris Mason

4. Call to Order

Scott Silver called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. with Scott as facilitator and Chris Mason as scribe.

5. Public Comments

Almost a dozen Northampton residents spoke to the commission regarding future use of the Bean Farm land that the City intends to purchase. Key points raised include:

- NESC was invited to join in the community conversation on this issue
- They encourage a thorough and productive public process
- It was suggested that NESC draw a link (via a formal commission vote) between sustainability and food, i.e.: there is a long-term need for agricultural land and the Bean Farm is designated prime farmland.
- Commissioners were invited to attend the public meetings that are to be held on this topic
- A petition was submitted to the commission (See attached at end of minutes)
- Interest was expressed in use of the land for education around agriculture and/or a CSA serving low-income residents—It was noted that the Food Bank CSA was shutting down, that people are available to farm the land, and that people could walk/bike to this property
- There is a value to the peacefulness of agricultural land that isn't there with soccer fields and playgrounds. It was felt that playing fields would also cause more traffic on Florence and Ryan Rds.
- It was suggested that NESC could research the impact on CO2 emissions of various uses
- Residents asked NESC to ask that the public process allow enough time to for the NESC to research and provide input

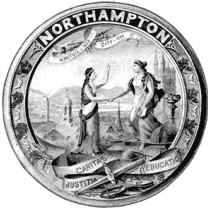
6. Approval of Minutes

No minutes were approved due to lack of a quorum

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski

Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason

Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

November 19, 2009

Meeting Room in DPW Administration Building

7. Green Communities Technical Assistance

Chris Mason reported that:

- Catherine Ratte, Tony Patillo, and he had not yet managed to meet to discuss information sessions leading to a public hearing on the stretch code
- He will be sending out vehicle lists to various City department heads and asking them to identify vehicles that would qualify to be included in a vehicle purchasing policy

David Pomerantz and Wayne Feiden were not available to report on the vehicle fuel efficiency purchasing policy and a letter from the City solicitor saying that current City zoning does meet the Green Communities Act requirements respectively.

8. Sustainable Northampton Plan (SNP) - NESC responsibilities

Scott Silver suggested that the NESC use the next meeting to prioritize items in the SNP and that the NESC then go into each topic with greater time and deliberation. Commissioners felt this made sense. Scott said he would draft criteria to use to prioritize items. Two criteria mentioned were (1) whether the NESC can complete a task quickly, and (2) how large of an impact the task would have (e.g., would it overcome a lot of barriers to increased energy efficiency (EE), use of renewable energy (RE), or reduction in greenhouse gases)

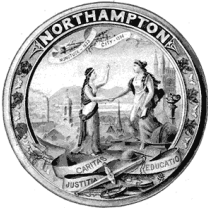
Chris Mason suggested two items that the commission may wish to put a high priority on: (1) adopt a policy regarding the City building LEED rated buildings (this one should be quick as a draft policy has been written) and (2) incentive programs and initiatives for increased EE and use of RE in all City sectors (e.g., property assessed clean energy financing, a carbon offset program to feed a revolving clean energy loan fund, work with local banks on providing EE mortgages—these have the potential to overcome several significant barriers)

The commission looked over the draft LEED building policy and asked why the phrase “to the extent possible” was dropped. Chris Mason said he would trace back the discussion to find the reasoning for the next NESC meeting.

9. CREBs Announcement

Chris Mason reported that the City has been allocated authority to issue up to \$268,700 of New CREBs for the SVAHS project and \$45,225 for the Jackson Street School project and that the authority holds for three years,

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

November 19, 2009

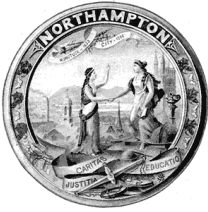
Meeting Room in DPW Administration Building

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was moved by Scott Silver, seconded by Ned Huntley, and voted unanimously in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Chris Mason
Energy and Sustainability Officer
11/30/09*

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

October 22, 2009
City Council Chambers

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present:

James M. Dostal	Catherine Miller
Wayne Feiden	David Pomerantz
Denzel Hankinson	Scott Silver
Ned Huntley	Chris Mason
John Kelly	

Also Present: James A. Barry, Regional Coordinator Green Communities Division Western Region,
MA DOER
Vern Fath, Northampton resident

1. Call to Order

Catherine Miller called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with Catherine as facilitator and Chris Mason as scribe.

2. Public Comments

Vern Fath asked for the commission's assistance in getting bike lanes defined with painted lines on the Rt. 9 roadway from Franklin Street to Florence.

Vern Fath encouraged the commission to support low-income residents receiving assistance in identifying funds for renewable energy and energy efficient technologies such as solar hot water, and home efficiency improvements.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Jim Dostal moved and Denzel Hankinson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2009 and September 24, 2009 meetings. Motion was approved unanimously.

4. Green Communities Technical Assistance

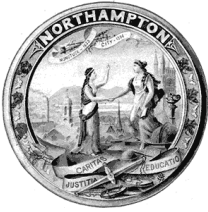
Catherine Miller announced that Tony Dover of PVPC had submitted his resignation that day and that she would represent PVPC in assisting Northampton on becoming a Green Community until a replacement for Tony was found. The PVPC can spend 100 hours helping Northampton plan to become a Green Community. The Commission discussed needing the following assistance:

- Stretch Code: PVPC has a presentation on the stretch code.

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • John Kelly • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Catherine Ratte • Scott Silver

Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason

Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

October 22, 2009
City Council Chambers

PVPC will help the commission with in-house discussions, public hearings, and adoption process that will include meetings with Tony Patillo, Chris Mason, and area Energy Star builders; public information session(s) and a formal public hearing; and a presentation to the City Council and Mayor. The Green Communities Act stipulates that the Mayor, following a public hearing, can adopt the stretch code, however, the Commission feels that it is important to include discussions with key stakeholders and obtain City Council acceptance along with the Mayor adopting the code.

This process will start with a meeting between PVPC staff, Tony Patillo, and Chris Mason.

- As-of-right Renewable or Alternative Energy Zoning: Jim Barry explained that the City may be able to meet this criteria with a letter from the City solicitor saying that current City zoning does meet the Green Communities Act requirements even though they do not specifically mention renewable or alternative energy. Wayne Feiden mentioned that the OPD might choose to pursue both a letter from the City solicitor and City Council approval of modification to the current zoning code. The City will not need PVPC assistance for this.
- Energy Use Baselines: PVPC will assist the City in developing a plan to collect data for an energy use baseline for vehicles. This will start with a meeting between PVPC staff, Ned Huntley, and Chris Mason.
- PVPC will provide David Pomerantz with a model fuel efficiency purchasing policy.

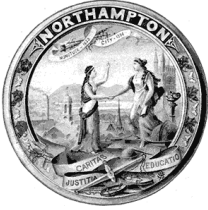
Jim Barry also mentioned that he is available to help the City with its application for EECBG funds.

5. **Clean Energy Choice Application**

David Pomerantz described the final application for Clean Energy Choice funds as follows: about \$72,000 for two-years of salary for the Energy & Sustainability Officer position, about \$36,000 toward PV systems at SVAHS and Jackson Street school, \$9,500 for an Owners Agent to assist with the performance contract. Chris Mason noted that, if the CREBs application and/or MTC rebate funds don't come through, the PV systems would be downsized and perhaps merged into one project.

MOTION: Wayne Feiden moved and Jim Dostal seconded the motion to approve the funding application as described. Motion was approved unanimously.

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • John Kelly • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Catherine Ratte • Scott Silver
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

October 22, 2009
City Council Chambers

6. Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Discussion was tabled, although Denzel Hankinson noted that he could help compile and analyze the structure's of other CAPs so as to identify a suggested structure for a Northampton CAP. Chris Mason supplied Catherine and Denzel with information that he has gathered on other CAPs.

7. Sustainable Northampton Plan (SNP) - NESC responsibilities

Report back:

- Climate Registry: Tabled so that the commission has time to review a report by Scott Silver
- Publicity: Jim Dostal met with David Pomerantz to discuss potential publicity options that led to Chris Mason and David Pomerantz presenting to the City Council on October 15—the presentation was well received and received good press.

Jim suggested a video clip on NCTV. David Pomerantz will explore this idea with Al Williams.

Chris Mason suggested that NESC members speak at the meetings of various organizations to inform of City actions and educate on energy efficiency and renewable energy programs available to Northampton residents and businesses. David Pomerantz will think through how to move such an outreach effort forward and report back. Vern Fath suggested that information be centered on helping people understand what assistance is available and how to access that assistance. Chris Mason will contact the Senior Center to see if they already have an outreach program aimed to accomplish what Vern suggested.

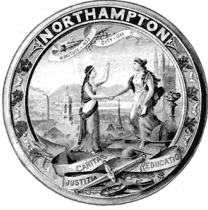
Scott Silver will speak at the 350.org event this Saturday.

- Land-use ordinances to address GHG emissions: Tabled until Wayne Feiden is available (Wayne had to leave the meeting early)
- ISO 14001: Chris Mason reported that this is an environmental management system that has largely been used by private organizations to help them identify and meet environmental goals. Denver is the only US City to have adopted ISO 14001 while several Canadian Cities have. To adopt ISO 14001, Northampton would have to hire an ISO 14001 consultant.
- ICLEI's software capabilities: Tabled since Chris Mason has not yet had a chance to install and review the ICLEI software, however, Catherine stated that she has worked with the software and is highly impressed by it's reporting ability. She found it very useful.

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • John Kelly • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Catherine Ratte • Scott Silver

Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason

Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

October 22, 2009
City Council Chambers

- EE Incentive Program Options: Only briefly discussed one incentive mechanism—property assessed clean energy financing districts, which are currently unavailable to MA Cities and Towns. A Betterment District may be able to be used instead. Catherine Miller and Chris Mason both expressed strong support for this type of idea. John Kelly will approach our State representatives to encourage them to sponsor enabling legislation.

8. **November & December Meeting Times**

November 19 and December 17 in place of the fourth Thursdays.

9. **Adjournment**

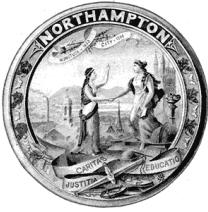
A motion to adjourn was moved by David Pomerantz, seconded by Denzel Hankinson, and voted unanimously in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Chris Mason
Energy and Sustainability Officer
10/23/09*

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • John Kelly • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Catherine Ratte • Scott Silver

Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason

Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

September 24, 2009

City Council Chambers

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present: Arthur Apostolou
James M. Dostal
Wayne Feiden
Catherine Miller
Chris Mason

10. Call to Order

Catherine Miller called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. with Catherine as facilitator and Chris Mason as scribe.

11. Green Communities Technical Assistance

Chris Mason announced that the City has been approved by the MA DOER to receive technical assistance for meeting the criteria to become a Green Community. Catherine Miller announced that Tony Dover of PVPC has been assigned by the DOER as the liaison to work with Northampton. The commission scheduled a discussion with Tony at the next NESC meeting (Oct 22, 2009).

12. Presentation by John Clapp

John Clapp reported to the commission on the status of their efforts to keep the Upper Roberts Meadow Dam from being torn down. He reported that there is some question over the potential kW capacity reported in the GZA report that the town was relying on. Jim Dostal stated that the State has given Northampton 6 months to decide so the DPW will hold off on taking the dam down.

Note: Catherine Miller left at this point and Chris Mason took over facilitation.

13. Potential Funding Opportunities

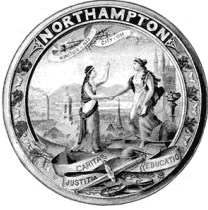
Chris Mason reported briefly on the status of a number of potential funding opportunities available to the City.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Chris Mason
Energy and Sustainability Officer
8/28/09*

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason
Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

August 27, 2009
City Council Chambers

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present: James M. Dostal
Denzel Hankinson
Ned Huntley
David Pomerantz
Scott Silver
John Szafranski
Chris Mason

15. Call to Order

Jim Dostal called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. with Jim as facilitator and Chris Mason as scribe.

16. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: David Pomerantz moved and Denzel Hankinson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2009 meeting. Motion was approved unanimously with Ned Huntley and Jim Dostal abstaining, as they had not been at the last meeting.

17. NESC File Sharing

Scott has still not heard definitively from all commissioners that everyone can access Live Office. Commissioners who have not gotten back to Scott on this are asked to do so. It is known that the system software on Chris Mason's computer is not adequate. Chris and David will meet with Jordan Marks to see about upgrading Chris's system software.

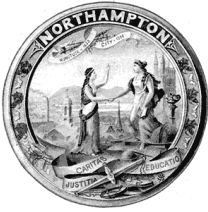
18. Sustainable Northampton Plan

Item numbers below refer to specific initiatives from the Sustainable Northampton Plan as labeled in the Excel spreadsheet used to track progress. (See attached).

1.3: Ned Huntley and Chris Mason reported that the state's incentive program for buying hybrid trucks does not fit Northampton's situation (it would have either needed to be for curbside pickup or include the trade-in of an old diesel). The City will continue to look for opportunities to switch to more efficient hybrids, but the current effort is too expensive without a state subsidy.

Hydro at the WTP is moving forward with 14.1% of the funds coming from stimulus funds. \

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NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

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City Council Chambers

There was general agreement that efforts such as the hydro plant at the WTP should be well publicized. The hydro installation will be definite enough to publicize at the end of Oct. into November.

1.6: Chris Mason will research wording for a policy statement that the NESC can recommend to the Mayor on new City building's meeting LEED standards. In particular, Chris will investigate how the policy can highlight clean energy and other issues of sustainability as top priorities for new City buildings when selecting which LEED criteria to meet.

1.9: Jim reported that Tony Patillo was not yet ready to discuss a process for the City to adopt the stretch code. Tony had mentioned to Jim that the stretch code is experiencing some last minute amendments.

2.1: Chris will compile examples Climate Action Plans (CAP) and a definition of a CAP to the next meeting. Denzel will check in with Catherine and Jonathan to see if they have made any headway in laying out a process to develop a CAP. Hope was expressed that Catherine will take the lead on this item due to her planning experience and expertise. Chris Mason will call and check in with her on this.

2.2: No action needed at this time

2.3: Scott will look into the particulars of the Climate Registry.

2.4: Jim will take the lead on publicity. Jim will meet with David and Chris ASAP to discuss publicizing the energy performance project.

2.5: Chris will look into the particulars of ISO 14001 certification

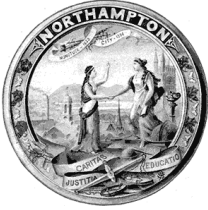
2.6: The commission felt that the performance contract project would effectively produce a monitoring program for environmental performance in public buildings given that this action is listed under using a life cycle analysis as a way to reduce greenhouse gases in the SNP.

2.7: The following were suggested as tools that may be useful in a monitoring program for environmental performance in private buildings:

- Monitor insulation levels etc. through GOTMS, the program Tony uses to track building permits
- Possibly have National Grid provide total kWh from the sum of all accounts in the City
- Use ICLEI's climate change inventory software.

Chris will investigate what can be done with ICLEI's software

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Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

August 27, 2009
City Council Chambers

2.8: This is a good item for OPD.

2.9: Chris Mason will prepare a briefing paper on possible incentive program options. Mentioned at the meeting were:

- the stretch code (acknowledged as more of a stick than a carrot)
- requiring efficiency upgrades at key times in a building's life (e.g., perhaps at time of sale) (again, acknowledged as more of a stick than a carrot)
- a clean energy tax district where the city could pass through financing to residents that would be paid back via a tax that would remain with the property. Known as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, thirteen states have enacted enabling legislation for local implementation of some form of PACE financing. This removes the disincentive of having to take on a long-term investment when you may not own the property long term.

19. **Application Reports**

Chris Mason reported that he has submitted applications for CREBs and for Green Community Technical Assistance. Unfortunately, he reports, that MTC has reduced their rebates for PV systems, opening a hole in the budgets for the PV systems for which we applied for CREBs. The City will have to make some level of adjustment to the projects.

A reminder that the City has to submit a final application for the Clean Energy Choice Funds before Nov 30. (We have \$117,997.74 left in the fund). David and Chris will come back to the commission with a formal suggested budget. It will be close to what the commission discussed at the last meeting.

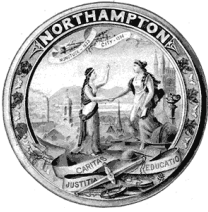
We are still waiting to see a solicitation for EECBG funding for cities under 35,000.

20. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Chris Mason
Energy and Sustainability Officer
8/28/09*

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

July 23, 2009
City Council Chambers

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present: Bruce Young
Denzel Hankinson
Chris Mason
Catherine Miller
Anthony Patillo
David Pomerantz
Scott Silver

21. Call to Order

Catherine Miller called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. with Catherine as facilitator and Chris Mason as scribe.

22. NESC Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

23. NESC File Sharing

Scott Silver and Denzel Hankinson made a request that all commissioners try the MS Office Live file sharing program and report back to Scott successes and challenges so that Scott and Denzel can ascertain appropriate next steps.

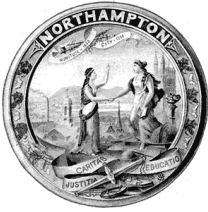
24. Green Communities Act

Chris Mason announced that, on July 10, 2009, the MA DOER Green Communities Division published final Green Community Act requirements and an application for Cities and Towns to receive technical assistance to become a Green Community. This program will provide up to \$10 million annually in grant funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in cities and towns that meet five specific criteria. The application is due August 7, 2009 and needs a letter of commitment from Mayor Higgins to meet all five criteria within one year of technical assistance award.

MOTION: Catherine Miller moved and David Pomerantz seconded a motion that the NESC provide to Mayor Higgins a memo drafted by Chris Mason that clarifies the need for a letter of commitment, the status of Northampton's work toward fulfilling the five Green Community criteria, and the benefits of becoming a Green Community. Motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioners discussed the process to adopt the Stretch Code. Tony Patillo noted that the adoption process depends upon what type of charter Northampton operates under. Bruce Young volunteered to find out.

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason
Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

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July 23, 2009
City Council Chambers

MOTION: Catherine Miller moved and Bruce Young seconded a motion that the NESC endorse the adoption of appendix 120AA to the 7th edition Massachusetts Building Code 780 CMR, otherwise known as the Stretch Code, by the Mayor and/or City Council as required by City Charter. Motion was approved unanimously.

David Pomerantz said that he had begun to draft a fuel-efficient vehicles purchasing policy and that he will compare his draft to language that the MA DOER Green Communities Division has announced that they will make available.

25. Climate Action Plan

The Commission tabled discussion on the Climate Action Plan until the next meeting.

26. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Scott Silver moved and Catherine Miller seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2009 and June 25, 2009 meetings. Motion was approved unanimously.

27. Plan to Spend Clean Energy Choice (CEC) matching funds

Chris Mason reported that there is an opportunity to greatly leverage some of the CEC funds in order to acquire large photovoltaic (PV) arrays by using zero-to-low interest Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) to help with financing. (e.g. By putting in \$30,000 of CEC funds, the City could acquire a \$700,000 PV system financed in part with CREBs and pay back the CREBs with the avoided cost of the electricity that the array produces. MTC's Commonwealth Solar program would pay the majority cost of the array.)

Since applications for CREBs are due by August 4, 2009, the NESC would need to earmark some of the CEC funds for this type of project prior to the need to provide MTC with a final plan on how to spend-down the CEC money. Northampton has \$117,997 of CEC funds to spend down.

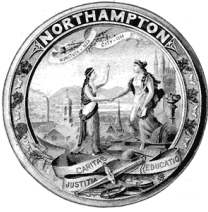
The commissioners discussed options for spending down Clean Energy Choice (CEC) funds as outlined in a memo from David Pomerantz. (Memo is attached at the end of the minutes) These included about \$72,000 for two-years of salary for the Energy and Sustainability Officer position, about \$10,000 for an owner's agent for the construction phase of the performance contract project, and between \$600 and \$1,200 for one or two years of ICLEI dues. This would leave between \$34,797 and \$35,397 to go toward PV arrays financed in part with CREBs.

Chris Mason described preliminary budgets for a 100 kW PV system at SVAHS and up to 25 kW at an elementary school that included \$33,450 of CEC funds, \$521,000 of MTC Commonwealth Solar funds, and CREBs worth \$343,000.

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski

Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason

Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

July 23, 2009
City Council Chambers

MOTION: Scott Silver moved and Catherine Miller seconded a motion for Chris Mason to apply for CREBs to finance two PV systems totaling about 125 kW in size. Motion was approved unanimously.

28. Sustainable Northampton Plan

The Commission tabled any further discussion on the Sustainable Northampton Plan until the next meeting and requested that it be placed at the top of the next meeting's agenda.

29. Announcement – IGA contract with ConEd

David Pomerantz reported that the City has held a kick-off meeting with ConEdison Solutions and that ConEd is proceeding with an initial scoping audit of all buildings. They are starting with the schools, will go onto SVAHS, and then finish with City buildings. They have 2 to 3 auditors working on this and the City is supplying them with data such as capital improvement plans, energy data, operating logs, etc. ConEd will complete an initial high-level audit in 45 days and then a final IGA 90-days following that.

30. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Chris Mason
Energy and Sustainability Officer
7/28/09*

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski

Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason

Associate Members:



City of Northampton, Massachusetts

Central Services

Memorial Hall, 240 Main Street

Northampton, MA 01060

(413) 587-1238 Fax: (413) 587-1248

David Pomerantz

Director of Central Services

Memo: Options for spending down Clean Energy Choice (CEC) funds

To: NESC

From: David Pomerantz

Date: July 17, 2009

MTC has identified a list of pre-approved products and services which communities can spend CEC funds on. (See below). In addition, communities with available funds of more than \$25,000 can propose to fund other activities related to renewable energy. According to staff at MTC, Northampton has \$117,997 CEC funds left to spend.

To clarify what Northampton can spend these funds on, Chris Mason asked Martha Broad of MTC, "...Because MTC has previously approved spending funds for an owners agent for our energy services performance contract during the RFQ selection process and audit phases, we are assuming we can expect to do so for the construction phase as well. Can you please confirm this?"

Could we also use some of the funds to grow the performance contract project itself if these funds increase the amount of (1) efficiency upgrades installed or if they increase the amount of (2) renewable energy that is installed?"

Martha Broad replied, "We allow towns to use Clean Energy Choice municipal matching funds for items that are primarily related to renewable energy (the Low Income Grant is different in that we allow up to 30% for EE). If you can make the case that the use of your funds, for each line item/project, is primarily related to RE (and EE is secondary) than you can use them that way."

In addition, Martha has told us that, regarding time limits, "[MTC] would like Northampton to spend the total final grant request within 12 months of approval and to send us a final report 1 month after that. For towns that are using the funds to support salaries, RET is willing to accommodate a longer schedule if needed (i.e. within at most 24 months of approval)."

Central Services suggests for consideration to the NESC the following items on which it would like to spend CEC funds:

Pre-approved items

- funds to cover 2-years of salary for the Energy and Sustainability Officer position
- membership fee(s) (1 or 2 years?) in ICLEI
- installation of PV system(s) (subsidized with Clean Renewable Energy Bonds)

Other items to propose

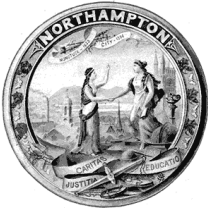
- contracting with an owner's agent for the construction phase of the energy services performance project (ESPP)
- buying down any RE projects in the ESPP

Why do we need to Decide Now?

MTC has requested final grant requests for spending clean energy choice (CEC) funds by the end of November, however, the City has an opportunity to leverage some of these funds with Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) and in doing so, realize installation(s) of much larger PV systems on City buildings. **Applications for CREBS are due August 4**, and the City's Energy Officer and NESC will need to decide what amount of CEC funds, if any, the City should use as matching funds for PV systems financed with CREBs.

Clean Energy Choice Pre-Approved Products/Services

Renewable Energy Educational Books
Science Kits for School Labs
Membership Fees for municipality to join organizations that assist municipalities with climate change management plans and sustainable practices.
Solar Harvester: Power audio visual equipment, power tools, computers, pumps, lights and more with a mobile plug and play set up that runs on solar energy.
Solar Powered Trash Compactors: Meant to replace traditional outdoor trash containers, a solar powered trash compactor automatically compresses trash to reduce the number of collection trips and eliminate trash overflow.
Solar Powered Lighting System: Illuminate a monument, flagpole, or small sitting area with a solar lighting system and introduce the community to clean, renewable solar electricity.
Public Outreach Materials: Spread the word about the benefits of clean energy in your community! Clean Energy Choice matching grants can be used for printing fliers and brochures, or other costs associated with putting on local outreach events such as clean energy/sustainability fairs.
Teacher Training: Matching grants can cover the cost of books, publications, field trips and other educational materials that help teachers implement clean energy related curriculums. Costs associated with teacher development conferences and workshops are covered as well.
Photovoltaic Installation: Installing a solar energy system on municipal buildings reduces energy costs and helps to educate residents about the power of clean energy technologies. If your town has over \$13K of funding available, learn how you can supplement this amount with the Trust's Commonwealth Solar rebate program. Using funds from both of these programs, a number of towns have covered 100% of the cost of PV installations.
Salaries for consultants or employees that assist the municipality in increasing its use of renewable energy (note: please provide a description of the position and indicate rate and hours on an attached sheet).



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

June 25, 2009
City Council Chambers

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present: James M. Dostal
Denzel Hankinson
Ned Huntley
Scott Silver
Bruce Young (for Wayne Feiden)

31. Call to Order

Chris Mason, called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

32. Approval of Minutes

As there was not a quorum, no motion could not be taken on whether to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2009 meeting.

It was noted that the inline hydroelectric plant would be at DPW's water treatment plant, not the wastewater treatment plant as reflected in the minutes.

33. NESC File Sharing

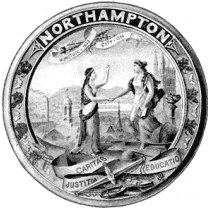
Scott Silver and Denzel Hankinson made a final recommendation on how NESC could best share files electronically with one another and with the public. Of the two options: a) Google Docs, and b) MS Office Live Update, they recommended MS Office Live Update.

Disadvantages of Google Docs include file size limitations and loss of formatting when converting documents to or from MS Office applications. Advantages of MS Office Live include the ability to make files public as "read only", in other words, without giving write permission.

Scott has set up a test site and sent invitations to commission members by email, which will allow them to login to the NESC online file archive. If Commission members have trouble logging-in they should let Scott know.

The Commission needs to decide on the best way to allow for easy public access. Options are: i) to automate registration for the file-sharing site by way of a link on the NESC web page, ii) register people manually as they express interest. Chris Mason will look into what is technically possible.

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason
Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

June 25, 2009
City Council Chambers

34. Climate Action Plan

The Commission tabled discussion on the Climate Action Plan until the next meeting. Note that recommended actions are being developed by Catherine Miller with Jonathan Black, not Denzel Hankinson

35. Sustainable Northampton Plan

Scott Silver had prepared an Excel file showing the status of completion and allocating responsibility to Commissioners for NESC's responsibilities on the Sustainable Northampton Plan.

The Commission tabled any further discussion on the Sustainable Northampton Plan until the next meeting.

36. Green Communities Act

Scott Silver asked whether there were any time constraints in applying to be a Green Community. Chris Mason clarified that the applications to be a Green Community had not yet been issued, and therefore the City did not yet know exactly what needed to be prepared for the application.

37. EPA's Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program

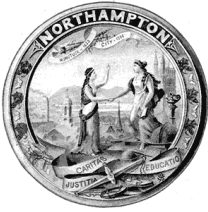
Chris Mason asked for ideas for Northampton to apply for "Climate Showcase Communities" grants for local governments. Five grants of up to \$100,000, and 19-20 grants of \$300,000-\$500,000 are available. All grants require a 50% match, but matching can be in-kind (including time of City staff and volunteers). Chris Mason said he thought third party funds could also be used as matching grants, however, other Federal funds could not.

Applications are due by July 22, 2009. Given the deadline, city staff will have to work on the application. Chris is looking for the Commission's guidance only.

Proposed activities must achieve reductions in GHG emissions by addressing one or more of the following priority areas:

- i) energy performance in municipal operations (including municipal energy, water, and wastewater utilities)
- ii) energy performance in residential, commercial, agricultural, aqua-cultural, and/or industrial buildings
- iii) land use, transportation, or community master planning
- iv) reduction of vehicle miles traveled
- v) solid waste management

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

June 25, 2009
City Council Chambers

- vi) agricultural, aqua-cultural, and natural resource management
- vii) use or supply of green power products, on-site renewables, and other clean energy supply options
- viii) heat island management
- ix) removal of barriers for greenhouse gas management, through the development of effective programs, policies, or outreach
- x) other innovative activities which generate measurable reductions of greenhouse gases

The Commission discussed ideas for Northampton's application, which included:

- i) Working with National Grid to come up with a rate tariff for LED street lights
- ii) Installation of Smart Meters or other Smart Grid technologies
- iii) The inline hydroelectric plant planned for DPW's water treatment plant
- iv) The hybrid truck discussed during the May 28, 2009 NESC meeting
- v) Smith Vocational's plans to make their greenhouses more sustainable
- vi) Upgrades to the fairgrounds
- vii) Energy efficient mortgages
- viii) Sustainable energy financing districts like the one in Berkeley, California
- ix) Carbon offset programs which return funds to Northampton, similar to a program implemented in Colorado

Discussion identified the inline hydroelectric plant as the best candidate for the grant application because i) matching funds had already been committed, ii) much of the information required for the application was already available—this is important given the tight deadline for applications. Chris Mason will use this input from the commission as he works to prepare an application.

38. MTC's Clean Energy Choice (GreenUp) matching funds to end

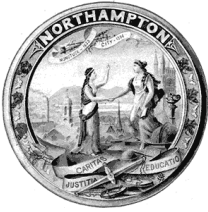
Chris Mason reported that funding from Clean Energy Choice (GreenUp) program will soon end. The Commission is tasked to decide how to spend this money. MTC would prefer that Northampton spend money down in a year, but communities who are using it for salaries can have up to two years.

Further discussion on this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

39. Announcement – IGA contract with ConEd

Chris Mason reported that the City has signed the contract with ConEd for the energy performance contract. The City is planning a meeting with ConEd soon.

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

June 25, 2009
City Council Chambers

40. Proposal to elect a vice-chair

Chris Mason proposed that the Commission elect a Vice-Chair to fulfill the Chair's responsibilities if the Chair is unable to attend meetings.

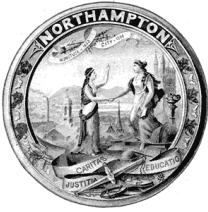
Commission members suggested the possibility of appointing a facilitator at each session instead of a permanent vice-chair, to guide discussions, as well as someone to take minutes.

41. NESC Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Respectfully submitted
Denzel Hankinson
6/29/2009

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

May 28, 2009
City Council Chambers

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present: Jonathan Black
Denzel Hankinson
Ned Huntley
Anthony Patillo
David Pomerantz
Scott Silver
John Szafranski

42. Call to Order
Chris Mason, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

43. NESC File Sharing
Scot Silver and Denzel Hankinson reported on two file sharing options

MS Live Update	Google Docs
Considered advantageous but must use MS Office – this may pose a problem to future NESC members. All current members use MS Office	Will need gmail address & passwords
Good tasks and calendar functions	Good collaboration functions on editing documents. May need to tweak final document when going back to Word etc.

Denzel and Scott will review once more and make a recommendation at the next meeting

44. Approval of Minutes

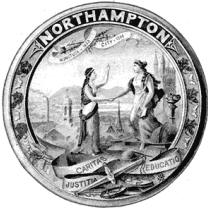
MOTION: Scott Silver moved and Jonathan Black seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2009 meeting after changing Denzel to Jonathan on who is working on the CAP with Catherine. Motion was approved unanimously.

45. Sustainable Northampton Plan – NESC Responsibilities

Scott Silver will transfer the table of Strategies and Actions from Word to Excel and add columns for items such as “deferred”, “in-process”, “completed”, “who”, “next step”, “expected completion date”.

Item 1) Prepare and implement an energy conservation plan: Jonathan Black will research and better define the task to “Prepare and implement an energy conservation plan...” Chris Mason

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason
Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

May 28, 2009
City Council Chambers

felt this referred to a City Energy Policy expanded to include waste and transportation policies. Chris Mason will scan and distribute an old City Energy Policy.

Item 2) Research working with an ESCO: The City is contracting with an ESCO. David Pomerantz reported that we expect to have a signed contract with ConEd within two weeks. They will then complete an initial audit in 45 days and a full IGA within another 90 days. This will enable the City to identify where we can apply federal efficiency stimulus funds.

Item 3) Use capital improvements to update efficiency: David Pomerantz reported that the City has 1-, 5-, and 10-year capital improvement plans but no funds to implement. These plans will be given to the ESCO before they work on the IGA.

Ned Huntley reported that stimulus funds would only pay \$40,000 toward the purchase of a new hybrid work truck when the incremental cost for the hybrid is \$70,000. Chris Mason and Ned will work together to determine the payback time to pay off the \$30,000 portion the city would need to invest in a hybrid version.

Ned reported that the DPW is moving forward with in-line hydro at the water treatment plant.

Item 4) Energy and operation audits: Chris Mason reported that the City keeps ongoing records of energy use for buildings, public lighting, and implemented energy conservation measures (ECMs). Chris has plans to begin tracking energy use by City fleets as well.

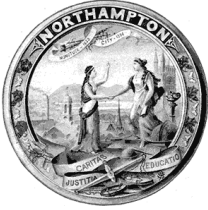
Item 5) Awards program: The planning department maintains a brochure on all LEED rated buildings in Northampton. The commission deferred other possible award programs for the time being.

Item 6) LEED standard for new City buildings: Completed, the Mayor has stated that all new City buildings will be LEED rated.

Item 7) Funds for more sustainable schools: A number of ways the City is moving on this were described: ▪ The ESCO project will help increase efficiency of school buildings. ▪ Smith Voke is acquiring two PV systems through grants. ▪ Smith Voke is partnering with NESEA to apply for funds to make the school a clean-energy training center. ▪ The City installed a 10 kW PV system on JFK and a smaller system on the HS. ▪ There is an opportunity to use a 3rd-party PV model to place solar arrays on several schools.

Scott Silver and Jonathan Black offered to help Chris Mason develop a solicitation for 3rd-party PV proposals.

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

May 28, 2009
City Council Chambers

Item 8) Architecture 2030: Tony Patillo will research this item and report back

Item 9) Improved efficiency in building code: The City can complete this by adopting the newly enacted stretch code. This will also enable Northampton to become a Green Community and thus become eligible for funds from the regional greenhouse gas initiative (RGGI).

Tony Patillo will speak with Jim Dostal and define the steps the City needs to take and a timeline to adopt the stretch code. The Commission will then take the lead on moving this through to adoption.

The Commission tabled discussion on the remaining items till next meeting.

46. Review Northampton's Energy Reinvestment Revolving Loan Fund

This fund is up for annual renewal.

MOTION: David Pomerantz moved that the Energy Reinvestment Revolving Loan Fund be reauthorized as is. Discussion identified that this fund is an alternative to working with an ESCO and since the City is about to contract with an ESCO the use of the fund over the next year is unlikely. Motion was approved unanimously.

47. NESC Public Comment Period

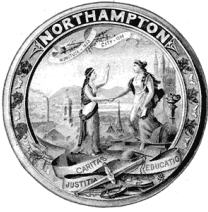
MOTION: John Szafranski moved to include a public comment period at the start of each meeting, limited to three minutes per public presenter. Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Chris Mason
Energy and Sustainability Officer
5/29/2009

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski

Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason

Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

April 23, 2009
City Council Chambers

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present: Maureen T. Carney
James M. Dostal
Denzel Hankinson
Ned Huntley
Chris Mason
Catherine Miller
Scott Silver
John Szafranski
Bruce Young

48. Call to Order
Catherine Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

49. Approval of Minutes
MOTION: Jim Dostal moved and Catherine Miller seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2009 meeting as submitted. Motion was approved unanimously.

50. Climate Action Plan (CAP)
The commission reviewed language in the Sustainable Northampton Plan (SNP) to add as an addendum to the Plan a climate action plan. It was noted that the SNP already recommended many actions for the NESC to take that might fit into a CAP.

The Energy and Sustainability Officer volunteered to compile a list of all strategies and actions in the SNP that listed the NESC as a responsible agency.

Denzel Hankinson suggested that he might be able to find an intern to help with the development of a CAP.

The commission reviewed a 9/18/2007 memo to Mayor Higgins by Chris Mason analyzing the difference between the SNP and a potential Northampton CAP. It was noted that the memo was written when the SNP was still in draft form and that the final SNP includes greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets for City functions but not for all sectors of the City of Northampton.

Jonathan Black and Catherine Miller agreed to meet and to develop recommendations on how the NESC moves forward toward development of a CAP.

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason
Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

April 23, 2009
City Council Chambers

Catherine Miller needed to leave at this point and handed the duties of chair over to John Szafranski.

51. NESC File Sharing Plan

Various aspects of file sharing plans were discussed and the sense of the commission was that a NESC file sharing capability should allow:

- commissioners to attach a descriptive note to each file being stored
- commissioners to edit and attach comments to stored files within the parameters of the open meeting law
- the general public read-only access to stored files

Scott Silver and Denzel Hankinson agreed to meet and review several suggested file-sharing plans and make a recommendation to the commission.

52. Review Northampton's Energy Reinvestment Revolving Loan Fund

The commission reviewed language authorizing the City's Energy Reinvestment Revolving Loan Fund but made no recommended changes at this time. Chris Mason recommended that commissioners look at ICLEI's resource guide to revolving energy funds.

53. Green Communities Act

MOTION: Maureen Carney moved and Jim Dostal seconded the motion to sponsor the Office of Planning and Development legislation §350-11.4, (Expedited permitting process for renewable/alternative energy facility) with recommendation to confirm it meets language from the Massachusetts Green Communities Act. Motion was approved unanimously.

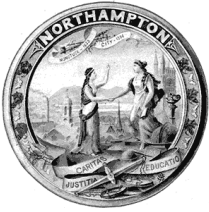
54. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants

Chris Mason distributed published guidance from the MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER) on applying for federal stimulus funding under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) program.

Scott Silver noted that, while the guidance specifically lists as an eligible activity the use of funds to buy down the cost of a performance contract, the City will not know if this is appropriate until we have a better idea of what the investment grade audit (IGA) recommends.

The sense of the commission was to monitor the EECBG program until we see results of the IGA or until we need to develop an alternative proposal in order to make sure we receive EECBG funds.

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

April 23, 2009
City Council Chambers

55. New Business

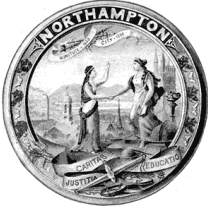
Scott Silver volunteered to begin compiling a glossary of organizations and acronyms that were likely to come up during commission business. Chris Mason volunteered to help Scott if needed.

MOTION: John Szafranski moved to include a public comment period on every agenda, limited to three minutes per public presenter. As Bruce Young and one other commissioner had left shortly before this motion, the commission no longer had a quorum and the motion was not voted upon.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm

Respectfully submitted
Chris Mason
Energy and Sustainability Officer
4/29/2009

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

March 26, 2009
City Council Chambers

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present:

Jonathan Black	Catherine Miller
James M. Dostal	Anthony Patillo
Denzel Hankinson	David Pomerantz
Ned Huntley	Scott Silver
Chris Mason	John Szafranski

Also present: Peggy MacLeod

1. Call to Order

Since the Commission does not yet have a Chair, Chris Mason, The Energy and Sustainability Officer called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTIONS: Jim Dostal presented a motion to approve the minutes and, upon suggestion of Chris Mason, a second motion to amend the minutes to include the RFI on the Green Communities requirements that NESC prepared for the MA DOER. Both motions were seconded and then approved unanimously.

3. Discussion of Chair & Officers

MOTION: Jim Dostal presented a motion to offer Catherine Miller the chairmanship of the commission. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Catherine Miller took over facilitation of the meeting as Chair at this point.

4. Green Communities Act

Chris Mason reported that he had filled out the RFI on the Green Communities requirements based on previous NESC discussions and sent it to the MA DOER

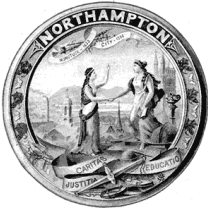
David Pomerantz reported that he is drafting a fuel-efficiency policy that will be run through the capital improvements program that will address fuel types, vehicle sizing, fuel efficiency, and pool vehicles.

Ned Huntley reported that the DPW is looking at the purchase of a TZ370 hybrid work truck (class 7 or class 6 truck).

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski

Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason

Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

March 26, 2009
City Council Chambers

Tony Patillo reported that he, Chris Mason, and Peggy MacLeod spoke at the BBRs hearing on the new stretch code to the MA Building Code. Based on that hearing and subsequent conversations, it sounds like the stretch code will definitely happen.

Peggy MacLeod says that she has the impression that the BBRs wants early adopters to succeed and they will assign pre-approved technical consultants to each green community to help the communities work through the transition.

Chris Mason submitted a draft letter to the BBRs commenting on the new stretch code. Tony Patillo felt it did an excellent job addressing his concerns. The commissioners agreed to look over the letter and provide feedback to Chris in time to submit the letter to the BBRs by April 10.

5. **Energy Efficiency Actions in Western MA**

Catherine Miller reported that the PVPC is working with area partners (the Pioneer Valley Renewable Energy Collaborative and the western mass energy alliance), on a proposal to the US DOE for funds from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) competitive grant program to ratchet up efficiency programs in the Pioneer Valley.

It was noted that Northampton nor any MA county received any funds through the EECBG Formula Grants program but that the City will be able to apply for EECBG funds directly to the US DOE through the competitive grant program and through the MA DOER for the “balance of state” funds.

In both cases, the NESC identified the city’s energy services performance contract as a likely use of funds although there was some uncertainty as to whether that would be an acceptable use.

John Szafranski reported that GCC, STCC and others are working together to develop green jobs training programs and develop a green jobs training center in western MA.

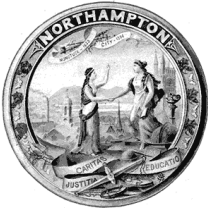
6. **Energy Services Performance Contract**

David Pomerantz reported that Mayor Higgins has approved the City moving forward to sign a contract for an Investment Grade Audit with Con Edison Solutions.

7. **Green Action in Northampton Schools (GAINS)**

David Starr reported on the Green Action in Northampton Schools program that has been endorsed by the Mayor. (For details, see attached handout)

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

March 26, 2009
City Council Chambers

8. Potential NESC associate member(s)

Chris Mason reported that the City had received an application from a resident to serve as an associate member of the commission.

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	

Sustainable Northampton Plan and Northampton's Elementary Schools

Green Action in Northampton (GAIN), a citizens group, has proposed a project that will tie school activities to Northampton's Sustainability Plan.

The program will bring resources and public recognition to Northampton schools and educate the school community, City staff, City board and commission members, project partners and the general public about the City's Sustainability Plan and build pride in the schools' contributions toward sustainability.

Concept: Sustainable Northampton School Awards

A series of public awards will be presented to Northampton elementary schools for the completion of in-school projects linked to the Sustainable Northampton Plan. The City and other potential partners (such as private businesses, area NGOs, City boards and commissions) will present the awards in public ceremonies that will draw, at a minimum, parents and the press. At each award ceremony, the public will learn about pertinent sections of the Sustainable Northampton Plan and what the school community did to help further that aspect of the plan.

City department personnel and City boards and commission members will assist school staff in identifying six award categories from the Sustainable Northampton Plan. Administrators, staff, and teachers from each school will select projects for each of these categories. Projects will be designed so as to further the educational goals of the school, address a selected category of the Sustainable Northampton Plan, and avoid placing undue additional work on school staff—particularly the teachers.

In-School Projects

These projects are meant to involve the entire array of the school community, from administrators to food service and maintenance personnel to teachers, students, and even parents. These projects will be chosen and designed by school staff to integrate smoothly into current school activities. For instance, it is likely that each school will identify a few school projects or activities that already address some aspect of the Sustainable Northampton Plan. These actions could be identified and highlighted for an award without adding any burdens to school staff. Other awards may stem from school projects being implemented by City staff (e.g., energy efficiency upgrades, conversion from disposable to reusable trays in the cafeterias) that can be worked into existing curriculums, displays or projects.

Potential Project Ideas Related to the Sustainable Northampton Plan

Note: These are samples to show the types of projects that might come from a school community. It is critical that the school community is comfortable with any project that they take on.

Energy, Environment and Climate Protection (e.g., efficient use of resources, green buildings or green roofs, recycling/composting, local vs. non-local purchases, renewable energy)

- Maintenance staff and student involvement in energy conservation projects (e.g., implementing system to turn off office equipment before weekends, vacations and holidays);
- Efficiency or renewable energy upgrades to school buildings are: (a) highlighted in student's art projects, (b) assigned as research topics, (c) featured in science classes with hands-on projects;
- Staff and student involvement in a composting or recycling project;
- Food service commitment to and student awareness of a buy-local food initiative;

- Student involvement in reducing the amount of plastic used in the cafeteria, particularly Styrofoam.

Transportation (e.g., pedestrian and bicycling pathways, sustainable transportation to/from school)

- The greater school community implements a carpooling program
- Students identify barriers to sustainable travel options to schools and present their findings

Open Space & Recreation (e.g., care of public recreation and wild lands, pedestrian and bicycling connections between public spaces)

- Student involvement in the care and upkeep of the school playground as a public space.
- Student survey of neighborhood needs for recreational opportunities
- Students identify barriers to sustainable travel options to area recreation opportunities and present their findings

Other projects could relate to other categories of the Sustainable Northampton Plan, including Land Use & Development, Economic Development, Heritage Resources, Housing, Infrastructure and Capital Resources, Municipal Governance and Financial Stability, Education and Social Equity. For instance the Sustainable Northampton Plan calls for specific strategies and actions to expand arts and culture opportunities in Northampton schools. Any action along this line could be identified as an award project and art projects could be used to highlight other sustainable actions being taken by the school community.

History and Plan of Action

In June 2008, Green Action in Northampton (GAIN) approached Karen Bouquillon as the City's Waste Management Supervisor and Chris Mason as the City's Energy and Sustainability Officer with a desire to help "green" the Northampton schools system. Several ideas were discussed and the idea of developing a green awards program tied to the Sustainable Northampton Plan won favor. GAIN presented the idea to Gwen Agna (Principal, Jackson Street Elementary School) and Susan Wright (Business Manager, Northampton Schools) who encouraged GAIN to present the idea at an all-principals meeting or an Administrator's Leadership Team (ALT) meeting. Mayor Higgins has been briefed on the idea, and has expressed her support.

GAIN representatives and City Staff have identified the following first steps:

- Present the idea to school principals at a monthly all-principals meeting or at an ALT meeting.
- Organize a district-wide meeting for schools that want to participate. The superintendent, principals and vice principals, teachers, food service staff and maintenance staff will be invited. This meeting will introduce project concepts and familiarize everyone with the Sustainable Northampton Plan.
- Form "Green Teams" in each school to lead the school's sustainability efforts (note: some schools may have completed this task this before the district-wide meeting). These Green Teams may include parents, City staff and others from outside the school community.
- Conduct planning meetings for Green Teams to identify specific school projects and formulate implementation plans that will work for each school.
- Identify community partners, design awards, secure funding where needed, organize, hold, and publicize award ceremonies.

Potential Funding

GAIN, with assistance from Karen Bouquillon and Chris Mason, has already begun to apply for grant funding to support program implementation. Sample grant sources may include:

- Massachusetts DEP – For local and regional initiatives to reduce the volume and toxicity of the solid waste stream and/or the Mass Clean Diesel program to reduce air pollution from school buses.
- US EPA – For environmental education projects to enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality.
- Massachusetts Technology Collaborative – subsidies for renewable energy or their assistance with third-party ownership of solar-electric arrays on public buildings
- Wal-Mart Community Giving Program – For helping people to become more personally sustainable or to help protect the environment. Funding is available for parks, recycling programs, outdoor classrooms and environmental educational initiatives.
- The Ittleson Foundation – For innovative pilot, model and demonstration projects that move individuals, communities, and organizations from environmental awareness to environmental activism by changing attitudes and behaviors

Sample Project

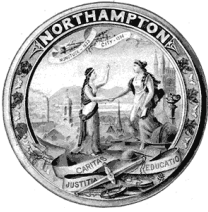
The City's Energy and Sustainability Officer recently observed how a town in Sweden this type of program to educate members community about the Town's sustainability plan. The project's broad involvement of all school staff, students, town employees and parents helped to build in the community a common language and concept of sustainability from which the town was able to move forward. It helped their sustainability plan become a living document understood by a large percentage of the town population as opposed to an action plan used primarily by town government.

In that instance, the school staff chose the following categories and actions for their awards:

- **Participation** (each category had to involve students, teachers, and administration, and at times, parents)
- **Local/Healthy Food** (their food service staff obtained permission to serve a much higher percentage of local food, the students maintained a school garden)
- **Energy and Resource Use** (the school switched from oil to wood heat and the students could explain why)
- **Recycling/Reuse of Materials** (the students maintained a compost bin, collected light bulbs for proper disposal, and ran a program to switch from paper to cloth towels)
- **Health** (activities tied to student's physical education classes)
- **Public Spaces** (student maintenance of the playground)



Awards presented to Swedish elementary school. Each award was represented by one petal of a six-petal flower with an accompanying plaque describing the action taken by the school and its place in the town's sustainability plan.



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

February 26, 2009
City Council Chambers

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present: Jonathan Black
Maureen T. Carney
James M. Dostal
Ned Huntley
Chris Mason
Catherine Miller
Anthony Patillo
David Pomerantz
John Szafranski

9. Call to Order

Since the Commission does not yet have a Chair, Chris Mason, The Energy and Sustainability Officer called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

10. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from Jan 22, 2009 passed unanimously

11. Discussion of Chair & Officers

MOTION: Jim Dostal presented a motion, which was seconded by Maureen Carney, to offer Scott Silver the chairmanship of the commission upon his arrival back in town. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris Mason was asked to draft a letter to Scott on this matter.

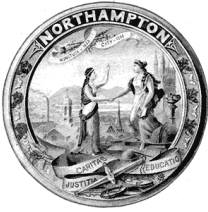
TABLED: Discussion of a vice-chair was tabled until more members were present, Scott Silver had responded to the offer of chairmanship, and, if Scott accepts the chairmanship, the commission had discussed with Scott the option of Scott selecting a vice-chair.

12. Discussion of Green Communities Act (GCA)

Chris Mason reported that the MA DOER had sent out a Request for Information (RFI) form regarding the five criteria set by the MA DOER that municipalities and regional school districts must meet in order to qualify for state renewable energy and energy efficiency grants and loans. Discussion of the GCA five criteria, which had started at the Jan. 22 NESC meeting, continued with a focus on filling out the RFI form.

Chris Mason was asked to compile commissioner's responses into a draft RFI and pass it around to the commissioners to confirm it accurately depicts their comments before submitting it to the DOER. (RFI response added as addendum to these minutes)

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason
Associate Members:



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

February 26, 2009
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13. Climate Action Plan

It was pointed out that the Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan calls for the NESC to prepare, as an addendum to Sustainable Northampton, a plan for climate protection for all sectors and, in 2011, to update the City's ICLEI inventory for climate protection.

Catherine Miller and Jonathan Black said they would begin to move forward on this task.

14. Suggested Future Agenda Items

Stimulus Money

Report on City's RFQ for an ESCO

Energy Reinvestment Revolving Fund

Respectfully submitted
Chris Mason
Energy and Sustainability Officer
3/3/2009

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	

GREEN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Request for Information Form

The Green Communities Act created a new grant and loan program for qualifying cities and towns that meet criteria involving zoning and permitting of energy facilities, energy use benchmarking and plans for reducing energy use, fuel efficient vehicles, and minimizing life-cycle energy costs for new construction. Since October 2008 DOER staff have been doing outreach with communities to inform them about the program, discuss the qualification criteria for receiving grants, and obtain feedback. DOER also issued DRAFT grant qualification criteria for public comment in January. DOER is issuing this RFI to obtain information from municipalities to determine how to best serve communities before issuing any RFR for grants and/or technical assistance.

DOER requests the following information from the person in the municipality best prepared to provide this information.

Contact Name: Chris Mason Title: Energy and Sustainability Officer

Phone Number: (413) 587-1055 E-mail: cmason@northamptonma.gov

GREEN COMMUNITIES CRITERIA

1. As of Right Renewable or Alternate Energy Zoning

Provide for the as-of-right siting of renewable or alternative energy generating facilities, renewable or alternative energy research and development facilities, or renewable or alternative energy manufacturing facilities in designated locations.

- a. "As-of-Right Siting" is defined as siting that provides for the allowed use of, and does not unreasonably regulate, or require a special permit.
- b. An applicant can meet this requirement by providing as-of-right siting for one of the three types of facilities described.
- c. Communities can select the specific locations for the as-of-right siting, i.e. where these facilities are to be located, but these locations must be feasible and practical.
- d. Those communities who do as-of-right siting for generation facilities will receive extra credit in consideration for funding awards
- e. An applicant can meet this requirement with as-of-right siting for renewable or alternative energy generation that meets one of the following project requirements:
 - i. On-shore Wind – a turbine of a minimum 600 kW in size or above
 - ii. Off-shore Wind – a turbine of a minimum 2.5 MW or above
 - iii. Solar Photovoltaic – a single ground-mounted system of a minimum of 250 kW or above
 - iv. Biomass – a single facility of 10 MW or above
 - v. A CHP central plant serving multiple buildings – 5 MW or above
 - vi. Ocean, wave or tidal – no minimum threshold

Questions: (please mark one correct response):

Does your community have a by-law in place that can meet this criteria?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If a by-law is in place, which type of facility is it for:

- ☐ Renewable/alternative energy generation
☒ Renewable/alternative energy R&D facility
☒ Renewable/alternative energy manufacturing facility

If a by-law is NOT in place, what type of facility do you intend to pursue for meeting this requirement

- ☐Renewable/alternative energy generation
- ☐Renewable/alternative energy R&D facility
- ☐Renewable/alternative energy manufacturing facility

If a by-law is NOT in place, when do you expect to be able to vote on such a by-law? DATE:

If a by-law is NOT in place, have you identified designated locations for the type of facility selected?

- ☐Yes
- ☐No

Additional Comments:

Northampton currently has as-of-right siting for manufacturing and R&D facilities that would appropriately cover a renewable/alternative energy manufacturing facility. We do not have as-of-right siting for large generating facilities but the Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission may choose to investigate if this would be feasible for the City to implement.

2. Expedited Application and Permitting Process

(If you do not have a by-law in place to meet Criteria 1 then skip this requirement and proceed to requirement 3)

Adopt an expedited application and permitting process under which these energy facilities may be sited within the municipality and which shall not exceed 1 year from the date of initial application to the date of final approval.

- ☐ The expedited application and permitting process applies only to the proposed facilities which are subject to the as-of-right siting provision.
- ☐ An applicant can meet this requirement by applying the expedited permitting process of MGL c 43D to these zoning districts.

Questions:

Do you have a 12 month or less expedited application and permitting process in place for all local permitting of the facilities you have identified for as-of-right siting?

- ☐ YES
- ☒ NO

If you do NOT have an expedited application and permitting process in place, when do you expect that it will be in place?

DATE: October 2009

Additional Comments:

For practical purposes, the City of Northampton meets this criterion since our application and permitting process rarely goes over six months.

The Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission expects to review a draft ordinance for an expedited application and permitting process for RE facilities at our next meeting and expects to submit a final draft to the City Council for review shortly thereafter.

3. Energy Use Baseline Inventory for Municipal Buildings

Establish an energy use baseline inventory for municipal buildings, vehicles, street and traffic lighting, and put in place a comprehensive program designed to reduce this baseline by 20 percent within 5 years of initial participation in the program.

- A community can meet this requirement if it has completed an inventory as described above and has already implemented a program to reduce the baseline within the previous 24 months.
- Acceptable tools for performing the inventory are:
 - EnergyStar Portfolio Manager
 - ICLEI Climate Action Climate Protection software
 - DOER's Energy Information Reporting System
 - Other tools proposed by the community and deemed acceptable by DOER

Questions:

Have you completed a baseline inventory of all of your:

Municipally owned and operated buildings:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Street and traffic lighting:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Vehicles:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

If yes, do you have a comprehensive action plan in place with specific actions and milestones to reduce your fossil fuel energy consumption by 20% within 5 years? ☒ YES ☐ NO

If you have completed an inventory, but do not have an action plan in place, when do you expect to have a comprehensive action plan in place?

DATE:

If you have not completed an inventory, when do you expect this to be completed?

DATE:

Additional Comments (please let us know if you have an action plan in place that either has a different percentage reduction or was created up to 2 years ago and could be updated)

The Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan, January 2008 (the City's comprehensive master plan) identifies specific strategies and actions that should result in a reduction of fossil fuel consumption by at least 20% within 5 years when added to efforts already completed by the City over the last 2 years. (See the attached flier for examples of what the City has accomplished in the recent past.)

The Sustainable Northampton Plan identifies a target of 2% to 3% annual energy reduction and a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction of 8% below 2000 levels by 2010, 25% below by 2017, and 30% below by 2020. The City has also signed onto the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan, which calls for:

- a reduction in energy consumption to 2000 levels by the end of 2009 and reduction of that by 15% by 2020
- an 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050.
- a 28% reduction in energy use through efficiency improvements (in buildings) over 10 years.

The City expects to exceed these target through an energy services performance project on all municipal and school buildings that is expected to reduce energy consumption on the order of 20% to 30% in one year and through ongoing efficiency improvements in vehicle fleets and street lighting.

4. Purchase Fuel-Efficient Vehicles

Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.

- a. Heavy-duty vehicles only such as fire-trucks, ambulances, and public works trucks are exempt from this criterion.

- b. If an applicant does not have a vehicle fleet other than heavy-duty vehicles, it must propose alternative means for meeting this requirement, eg. having in place policies and procedures that promote reduced fuel usage for the municipality. For example, carpooling incentives for municipal employees, preferred parking for employees with hybrid vehicles, bike racks at municipal buildings and incentives for employees to bike to work.
- c. An applicant must provide a vehicle inventory for non-exempt vehicles and a plan for replacing these vehicles with vehicles that meet the fuel efficiency ratings below. These fuel efficiency ratings are set to ensure that at least 5 or more automatic transmission models of mass production are available for sale in Massachusetts (all from affordable brands; no luxury brands). Based on 2009 and 2008 model year data from EPA results in combined city and highway MPG ratings of not less than the following:
 - i. 2 wheel drive car: 29 MPG
 - ii. 4 wheel drive car: 24 MPG
 - iii. 2 wheel drive small pick-up truck: 20 MPG
 - iv. 4 wheel drive small pick-up truck: 18 MPG
 - v. 2 wheel drive standard pick-up truck: 17 MPG
 - vi. 4 wheel drive standard pick-up truck: 16 MPG

Questions:

Do you have an inventory of your existing fleet (model, year, estimated mpg) with plans for when they will need to be replaced? ☒ YES ☐ NO

Do you have a policy or other mechanism adopted for purchasing only fuel efficient vehicles as defined above? ☐ YES ☒ NO

If you do not have an inventory or a purchasing policy in place to meet this requirement, when do you think you could have this in place?

DATE:

If you do not have a vehicle fleet that is required to meet this criteria, do you have alternative policies and programs in place that could satisfy the criteria as described above? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Additional Comments:

For practical purposes, the City of Northampton meets this criterion since all vehicle purchases take fuel efficiency into account. The Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission is developing information to guide the purchasing of fuel efficient vehicles through the capital improvement process and will take the lead on developing a fuel-efficient vehicle policy for the City.

5. Life-Cycle Cost of New Residential Construction over 3,000 sq ft and new Commercial and Industrial Real Estate

Require all new residential construction over 3,000 square feet and all new commercial and industrial real estate construction to minimize, to the extent feasible, the life-cycle cost of the facility by utilizing energy efficiency, water conservation and other renewable or alternative energy technologies.

- o The Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) is currently developing an optional energy code that exceeds the current energy code that cities and towns can elect to adopt. It will provide standards for both residential and commercial construction. The code is expected to be

adopted by BBRS in March and available for implementation in May. The draft code, along with a summary, can be viewed on the [BBRS website](#). The development of this code has included life-cycle energy cost analysis and the code is substantially equivalent to meeting this requirement. Therefore, an applicant can meet this requirement by adopting this code.

- Should a community choose to use a different standard, it must provide documentation that demonstrates that application of this alternative standard results in reduced life-cycle energy costs.

NOTE: A community may adopt the stretch code through a decision of the annual town meeting, city council, or board of aldermen, a separate by-law or ordinance change is not required.

Questions:

Do you expect to adopt the BBRS stretch code? ☒ YES ☐ NO
If yes, when? DATE:

Do you have another standard in place to meet this requirement for all new construction along with the supporting analysis that this standard reduces life-cycle energy costs for residential and new construction to use to meet this criteria? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, what is that standard?

Additional Comments:

The Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan calls for the City to explore options to affect more stringent efficiency measures in the building code. In fact, before it became clear that the BBRS was pursuing a high-efficiency stretch code, Northampton had begun to take steps toward petitioning the State to allow Northampton to increase the efficiency standards of our building code. Therefore, the City is highly pleased that the BBRS is adopting both the more stringent efficiency requirements in 2009 IECC and an optional stretch code that will enable many Massachusetts cities and towns to pave the way to even higher standards.

The City recognizes that volatile energy prices, increasing dependence on foreign oil, and the rising threat of global warming are driving a movement toward ever more stringent efficiency standards for buildings. Northampton understands the wisdom of keeping up with these changes so that the City is never forced to make too large of a change all at once.

However, as we are sure you are aware, the new stretch code is performance based as well as requiring higher efficiency levels. While the City recognizes the advantages of a performance-based code — a higher level of quality control over the final product, greater flexibility for the builder in how to reach performance levels to name just two — a performance-based code will call for a new inspection protocol that leaves the City with questions on how to implement it.

- What will be the due process if a completed building does not pass the final performance inspection?
- How can scheduling inspections by third-party HERS raters occur without unduly affecting building schedules?
- How much additional resources will the Building Commission need to handle the increased workload of interacting with third-party HERS inspectors?
- Will there be training available to qualify Northampton building inspectors as HERS inspectors?

To help cities and towns work through the transition from a prescriptive to a performance based building code, Northampton requests that the DOER accept as meeting Green Communities Act requirements the adaptation in phases of the new higher-efficiency stretch code being written by the BBRS. For instance, allow communities to start with a commitment to adopt the stretch code following a transition phase. During this transition phase, the community would qualify as a Green Community and green community grants could be used to help the city or town move through the transition phase. The transition phase would include a period of:

- using incentives to get builders to build to the stretch code standards

- training of building inspectors as HERS raters
- working out a scheduling protocol between the City's Building Commission and third-party HERS raters,
- identifying any increased workload that a performance-based code imposes on the Building Commission
- training of the building community

Additional Questions:

Does your community have an energy committee or something similar?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Northampton, which has had an energy commission since the early 1980s, recently reconfigured our commission and added the topics of citywide reduction of global warming pollution and protection against the adverse effects of climate change and the disruption or depletion of energy resources to its mandate. The mandate of the new commission is to *“assist and ensure that the City identify, develop, implement, and manage programs and policies that achieve high levels of energy efficiency and energy resource sustainability and guard against effects of energy resource disruption/depletion and climate change in all of Northampton’s public and private sectors.”*

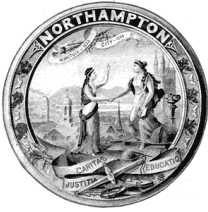
At the same time, the number of commissioners on the new Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission grew to eleven over the old seven-member commission. Members include four representatives of City departments and the Building Commissioner’s Office, an appointee from Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, and six public representatives including two City Council members and four members of the public at large.

What form of technical assistance would be most helpful to your municipality?

We hear that the DOER’s Energy Information Reporting System will accept data directly from utilities, alleviating the City’s need to double-enter all energy use data. This would be highly advantageous to Northampton in its ongoing effort to track the City’s energy use. We are currently using the EPA’s Portfolio Manager, which does not provide the City with this function.

Assistance in transitioning from a prescriptive to a performance based building code will be key in enabling Northampton to adopt the BBRs’s stretch code.

Aid with identifying and securing financial assistance: clear, accessible support from the DOER to help Green Communities navigate and assess all the different rebates, grants, loans, stimulus funds, etc. that are available.



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

January 22, 2009
City Council Chambers

Staff Contact: Chris Mason, Energy and Sustainability Officer, (413) 587-1055,
cmason@northamptonma.gov

Present:

Jonathan Black	Chris Mason
Maureen T. Carney	Catherine Miller
James M. Dostal	Anthony Patillo
Wayne Feiden	Scott Silver
Denzel Hankinson	John Szafranski
Ned Huntley	

Also present: Peggy MacLeod, Bruce Young

15. Call to Order

Since the Commission does not yet have a Chair, Chris Mason, The Energy and Sustainability Officer called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

16. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from Dec 4, 2008 meeting were approved.

17. Roll Call/Introductions

Commissioners introduced themselves.

18. Discussion/Election of chair and other officers

This discussion was postponed.

Jim Dostal volunteered to look over background information/resumes of commissioners and prepare guidance to the commission or recommendations for a chair at the next NESC meeting.

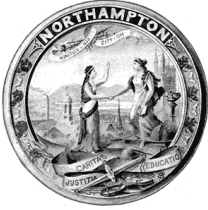
Chris Mason will provide Jim Dostal with the commissioner's background information.

19. Reports

- Chris Mason reported that the City has an Energy Reinvestment Revolving Fund that Central Services can use, with approval of the NESC and the Mayor, to pay for cost-saving energy efficiency projects in the City and that the fund currently contains a little over \$3,000.

Unresolved discussion(s):

The NESC identified a desire to place on a future agenda a review of the language empowering an Energy Reinvestment Revolving Fund with the idea that the NESC may wish to recommend modifications to the City Council.



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

January 22, 2009
City Council Chambers

- Wayne Feiden reported that he was unable to find an easy and free way for the NESC to take advantage of an RRS feed to post agendas and minutes
- Chris Mason, Catherine Miller, and Scott Silver reported on meeting with representatives of CET, FRCOG, PVPC, Greening Greenfield, the Montague Energy Committee, Coop Power, and Green Action in Northampton to discuss the potential of developing an area organization to provide a one-stop-shop for energy efficiency actions in western MA commercial and residential buildings. CET was identified as at least one likely provider as they already provide many of the needed services. The group will continue to meet.

Wayne Feiden suggested that the City's block grant to provide deferred interest loans for elderly housing rehabs could be modified to direct the rehab projects to perform energy efficiency improvements.

Wayne will draft language to change the block grant and present it to the NESC.

- Chris Mason reported that the City had completed interviews of four ESCOs in its efforts to contract with an ESCO for a comprehensive guaranteed energy service performance project.
- Chris Mason reported that the City had won approval-of-concept for \$142,971 of funding from MTC for the installation of a 13 kW photovoltaic array and energy efficiency upgrades to the James House through MTC's Low-Income Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) Implementation Projects program. MTC has added a stipulation that the City of Northampton provides a \$6,500 match for this project to move forward.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to support, if needed, the City's expenditure of \$6,500 of Northampton's Clean Energy Choice funds to provide this match. The motion passed unanimously.

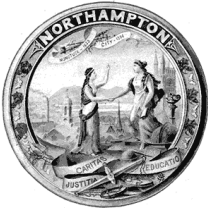
20. **Discussion: Green Communities Act (GCA)**

The Commission began a review of the DOER's draft Guidelines for Qualifying as a Green Community. The DOER is soliciting comments on the draft through 5:00 pm January 26, 2009. Following are the key points of this discussion:

Re: As-of-right siting of RE generating facilities, R&D facilities, *or* manufacturing facilities.

Wayne Feiden reported that Northampton currently has as-of-right siting for manufacturing and R&D facilities and thus we would meet this criterion. We do not have as-of-right siting for large generating facilities but the NESC may wish to investigate if this would be feasible for the City to implement.

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
Ex-officio, non voting:	Chris Mason
Associate Members:	



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

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Re: Expedited application and permitting process of less than one year. Wayne Feiden reported that, for practical purposes, the City meets this criterion since our application and permitting process rarely goes over 6 months but that we do not require an expedited application and permitting process.

Wayne will draft an ordinance for NESC to review and present to the City Council that would have the city adopt an expedited application and permitting process for RE facilities.

Re: EE and RE in new building construction: Wayne Feiden reported that the City could use the zoning and site-plan-approval process to require that new construction meet the requirements spelled out in the Guidelines for Qualifying as a Green Community. We could also provide the option that new construction meet the new high-efficiency stretch codes once these are implemented by the state.

Tony Patillo reported that the BBRS was targeting May 9 for public hearings on the new stretch codes and that the state is looking for towns willing to commit to the new stretch codes

Peggy MacLeod reported that there will be one stretch code with two parts, one for residential construction and one for commercial. The DOER is looking for public input on how to implement the use of these stretch codes in their requirements to become a green community. There will be a public comment session in Boston on March 30, 2009. Peggy MacLeod of CET will attend and invites any or all NESC members and other Northampton residents to join her in a car- or vanpool to the event)

Peggy announced that CET would organize "audio conference call trainings," which will be recorded for later distribution, on each aspect of meeting the Green Communities Act

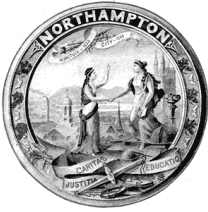
Re: purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles. Chris Mason agreed to track down a list of all City-owned vehicles.

Re: Feedback to the DOER on application guidelines:

CET is recommending that the DOER accept as meeting Green Communities Act requirements a city adopting the new stretch codes in phases. (i.e., Start with a period of things like incentives for and training of local builders to meet the stretch codes before final adaptation of the stretch codes)

Scott Silver suggested recommending to the DOER that they accept examples of past projects that would have met the criteria at the time they were done as worth "extra credit" as a way to give credit to precedent-setting work and early-adopter communities.

Voting Members:	Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young • Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David Pomerantz • Scott Silver • John Szafranski
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Chris Mason said he would compile any other feedback from NESC members into an e-letter to the DOER that will go out Monday afternoon (Jan 26).

21. Agenda items suggested for next meeting

Election of Chairperson and Officers

Green Communities Act cont.

Review Energy Reinvestment Revolving Fund language

Review draft language to change the rehab block grant

Review draft ordinance for the City to adopt an expedited application and permitting process.

MCAN Cool Cities Program (or some future meeting)

22. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Chris Mason
Energy and Sustainability Officer
1/23/2009

Voting Members: Jonathan Black • Maureen T. Carney • James M. Dostal • Wayne Feiden/Bruce Young
• Denzel Hankinson • Ned Huntley • Catherine Miller • Anthony Patillo • David
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Ex-officio, non voting: Chris Mason

Associate Members: